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FOL REPEAT USBERLIN 667 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BERLIN UNN
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QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, WB GW, UR

SUBJ: BERLIN REACTION TO END OF FRG-SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER
PROJECT

SUMMARY: CANCELLATION OF KOENIGSBURG NUCLEAR PROJECT HAS
BEEN ACCEPTED CALMLY IN BERLIN. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS ASSURED
POPULATION THAT BERLIN CAN MEET ITS OWN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS
AS NECESSARY, BUT THAT SEARCH FOR POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. BERLIN REACTION TO MARCH 31 ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER
FRIDERICH OF TERMINATION OF KALININGRAD PROJECT WHICH WOULD
HAVE BROUGHT SOVIET ELECTRIC POWER TO BERLIN AND THE FRG
HAS BEEN RELAXED. FROM HERE PROJECT HAD APPEARED MORIBUND
FOR MANY MONTHS AND HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCOUNTED AS A CON-
TRIBUTION TO BERLIN ENERGY SUPPLY. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS
REGRETTED OUTCOME BUT WELCOMED CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION
AND SAID CITY WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORT TO FIND POLITICALLY
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ACCEPTABLE LONG-RANGE ASSURANCE OF ENERGY SUPPLIES, INCLUDING

POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLY FROM OUTSIDE. HE ASSURED POPULATION THAT CITY IS IN A POSITION TO MEET ITS FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS ON ITS OWN.

2. DEPUTY HEAD OF SENAT ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT STATED CITY WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK ELECTRIC POWER CONNECTION TO A GENUINE GRID BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT POWER FROM BRANCH LINE TO BERLIN WITH ITS CONSEQUENT DEPENDENCY. HE NOTED QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WITHIN CITY IS ONLY "THEORETICAL STUDY" AT MOMENT. CDU DEPUTY WOHLRABE HAS CRITICIZED THE SENAT FOR WAITING SO MUCH TIME IN "FRUITLESS NEGOTIATIONS WITH A PARTNER WHO EXPLOITS EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BRING BERLIN INTO DIFFICULTY" AND HAS CALLED AGAIN FOR SENAT TO PRODUCE WITHOUT DELAY A DEFINITIVE PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY SUPPLY FOR CITY, A STANDARD LINE FOR CDU WHICH SOMETIMES ALSO CALLS FOR PROMPT ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONNECTION OF CITY TO WEST GERMANY POWER GRID.

3. COMMENT; GOVERNING MAYOR'S COMMENT THAT BERLIN CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT SOVIET POWER IS ACCURATE. CITY ALREADY HAS PLANS TO BUILD NEW 660-MEGAWAT (MW) POWER PLANT AT SITE OF EXISTING OBERHABEL PLANT TO COME ONSTREAM 1980/81, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 600-MW AT SAME SITE IN THE MID-1980'S IF NECESSARY. THERE HAD BEEN RESIDUAL HOPE THAT KALININGRAD POWER MIGHT HAVE ELIMINATED NECESSITY FOR SECOND BLOCK, BUT KALININGRAD PROJECT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN READY IN TIME TO ELIMINATE NEED FOR FIRST BLOCK.

4. IF OUTSIDE POWR HAS NOT BEEN ARRANGED BY 1985, FURTHER PLANT CAN BE BUILT WITHIN CITY BEYOND OBERHABEL PROJECT AS NECESSARY, AT SOME COST TO ENVIRONMENT AND OVER OPPOSITION FROM CITIZEN GROUPS. APPARENT CONCLUSION TO LONG-DRAWN OUT KOENIGSBERG PROJECT WILL STRENGTHEN SENAT'S HAND CONSIDERABLY IN DEALING WITH CITIZEN GROUPS WHICH HAVE FORMED TO POOSE OBERHABEL PLANS. MISSION WILL FORWARD SHORTLY BY AIRGRAM A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT WHICH ADDRESSES OVERALL BERLIN ENERGY SITUATION. GEORGE

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